Pradesh under the scheme of Central financial assistance. For such projects, State is treated as a unit and hence district-wise details are not maintained in the Department of Tourism.

(b) Out of 104 projects, 23 have been completed.

(c) The Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for important tourism projects identified in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations. The following projects in Uttar pradesh have been identified during the current financial year and the State Government has been requested to send detailed project proposals:—

(i) Development of Lucknow as a tourist destination.

(ii) Rural tourism project at Chiraigaon in Varanasi District.

Inclusion of Tourism in Priority Sector

724. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to widen the definition of priority sector lending to include tourism in the priority sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal to accord priority to tourism sector would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) In order to provide impetus to the growth and development of tourism, Department of Tourism has recommended to the Ministry of Finance that tourism industry be made eligible for lending under the priority sector by Banks.

Construction of 'Mahadwara' to "Mangladevi Temple" in Karnataka

725. SHRI JANARDANA POOJARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of Shri Mangaladevi, an ancient temple in Mangalore, District Daksin Kannada, Karnataka, attracting a large number of devotees from far and near have applied to the Archaeological Survey of India seeking permission to construct the 'Mahadwara' to the temple;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) wether it is also a fact that the Management of the temple has assured that the proposed Mahadwara would not alter the basic and existing structure of the temple; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and when the required permission would be granted?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from the Managing Committee of Shri Mangaladevi Temple for constructing a Mahadwara on the ancient foundation by replicating the ancient features and is under technical scruitiny.

Promotion of Adventure Tourism in H.P.

726. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for providing wayside amenities cafeteria and toilets in the Institute Complex of Manali in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any proposal for promotion of Adventure Tourism and Training in Mountain Rescue to Tribal people of Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details of (a) and (b) above separately; and

(d) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No such proposals are under consideration in the Department of Tourism at present.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Cultural/Folklore festivals in foreign countries

727. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to organize cultural/ folklore festivals in various foreign countries to tap new markets for Inbound tourism;